

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2. The [REPLACEMENT] sheet of Fig. 1 replaces the original Fig. 1 sheet; the [REPLACEMENT] sheet of Fig. 2 replaces the original Fig. 2 sheet. Figs. 1 and 2 are amended to properly show [REPLACEMENT] and references.

New Drawing Fig. 3 has been added.

Attachment(s): Replacement Sheet (Fig. 1)
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (Fig. 1)
 Replacement Sheet (Fig. 2)
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (Fig. 2)
 New Sheet (Fig. 3)

REMARKS

New claims 17 and 18 have been added. Support for those new claims can be found in the originally filed Specification and claims. Claims 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, and 16, have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added. Claims 9 to 10 and 12 to 18 are now pending. No new matter has been added to the claims.

Figs. 1 and 2 of the Drawings have been amended. New Fig. 3 has been added. No new matter has been added to the Drawings.

The Specification has been amended in accordance with the addition of Fig. 3. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Objections to the Drawings

Figs. 1 and 2 were objected to for showing [REPLACEMENT] in the wrong location. And, Fig. 2 was objected to for the non-numerical references. In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicants have amended Figs. 1 and 2 to remedy those situations, and Figs. 1 and 2 are submitted herewith for acceptance by the Patent Office.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for not showing "centrally comparing the source signals to a quality measure... wherein the quality measure is demanded by a selecting user" as recited in claims 9 and 15. New Fig. 3 has been added for clarification – and to expressly recite this feature of the claims. Support for Fig. 3 can be found throughout the Specification, and in claims 9 and 15. No new matter has been added. The Specification has been amended in accordance with the addition of Fig. 3.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Figs. 1, 2, and 3, are allowable and that the objections have been overcome.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 9 was objected to for reciting "centrally comparing" prior to "performing" a different step. Claims 9 and 15 have been amended to remove the "before performing" feature of those claims. Support for this amendment can be found in the originally filed specification and claims (see, for example, the Revised Pages). No new matter has been added.

Claim 11 was objected to for reciting "wherein the method... source signals." Claim 11 has been canceled. New claim 18 has been added to include the features of claim 11. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 11 are allowable, and that the objections have been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 9 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as nonenabling. Specifically, claims 9 and 15 were rejected for nonenabling its “centrally comparing” and performing signal improvement features. Claim 10 was rejected because the Specification does not describe a method of claims 9 and 10 in combination. Claim 12 was rejected because the Specification does not describe “signal analysis that is switchable by a subscriber via the reverse channel.”

Claims 9 and 15 have been amended above to further clarify the claims. The Specification does enable the claims as recited above. For example, the Specification describes the comparing and signal improvement performing steps of claims 9 and 15 at pages 3 to 6. The initial performing step is an available known technique, as described, for example, in the Specification at page 4, lines 33-34. The originally filed Specification and claims recited the combination of claim 10 with claim 9 – accordingly, the Specification of Record has been amended above to describe this combination. No new matter has been added.

Claim 11 has been canceled.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 to 10 and 12 to 16 are allowable, and any rejections of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 9 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, claims 9 and 15 were rejected for reciting “centrally comparing.” Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 15 have been amended above for clarification purposes, and thus clears any indefiniteness. Claim 10 was rejected for reciting “analyzing signals to be processed.” Claim 10 has been amended above to clarify the “signals” to be processed. Claim 13 was rejected for reciting “decisions on the signal analysis.” Claim 13 has been amended above to clarify the use of the table. Claim 14 was rejected for reciting “the signal format.” Claim 14 has been amended above to clarify the “format.” Claims 15 and 16 were rejected for being unclear as to their combination. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended above to clarify the combination.

Claim 11 has been canceled.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 to 10 and 12 to 16 are allowable and any rejections of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 9 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,198 to Makiyama (“Makiyama reference”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,050,731 to Matsui (“Matsui reference”).

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 to 10 and 12 to 16, as amended above, are allowable over the Makiyama and Matsui references. Claim 11 has been canceled.

As discussed in Applicants’ earlier response, the Makiyama reference purportedly describes a communication between an image-information storage device and a terminal even in the case of differing image formats. Specifically, the Makiyama reference refers to an image data delivery request, transmitted from a terminal and received by a receiving portion, having information indicated the terminal’s source format of CIF or QCIF which is transferred to a communication control portion. The Makiyama reference further refers to the communication control portion informing the source format control portion of the source format of the terminal. The Makiyama reference refers to a terminal having CIF source format data as begin transmitted through a transmitter portion to the terminal having CIF source format; and for a terminal having QCIF source format data the part of the image data transferred from the image-information storage device is extracted and converted into data of QCIF source format control portion, and the converted data of the QCIF source format is then transmitted through to a transmitting portion of the terminal.

The Matsui reference purportedly describes an apparatus adapted to check the quality of a code image printed and recorded on a printing medium as an optically readable image of error correcting code data containing information data adapted to be optically read by manual scanning. The Matsui reference further refers to the error correcting code data as being provided with the ability of correcting errors in response to code image read errors; and, the code image quality check apparatus extracts code image read errors from the error correcting code data restored from the read code image without executing any error correcting operation and reduces the extracted read errors into numerical values which are notified to the user.

The Makiyama and Matsui references do not together or alone describe or teach all of the features of claim 9.

Amended claim 9 is directed to a method for transmitting digitized, broadband data, which are suppliable by various sources for retransmission and which are selectable by a user via a reverse channel, including performing signal analysis on source signals, and, if necessary, converting a data format of the source signals; centrally comparing the source signals to a quality measure before the retransmission, wherein the quality measure is

demanded by a selecting user, to determine inferior quality; and performing a signal improvement on the source signals determined to be of inferior quality with respect to the data format and errors of the source signals, wherein the signal improvement includes at least one of a standard conversion through an up-conversion and a special signal improvement.

Both the Makiyama and Bergmann references do not teach or describe the method as described in claim 9, including centrally comparing the source signals to a quality measure (demanded by a user) before retransmission, and performing a signal improvement on signals determined to be of inferior quality with respect the data format and errors of the source signals. Further, the Office Action agrees at least that the Makiyama reference does not teach or describe the comparing of the source signals and performing the signal improvement, as in claim 9. Applicants respectfully submit that the Matsui reference does not cure the deficiencies of the Makiyama reference. Instead, the Matsui reference concerns a code image apparatus which examines the quality of a code image printed and recorded on a printing medium. *See Matsui reference at col. 5, lines 14 - 42.* The Matsui reference does not appear to teach or suggest performing a signal analysis, centrally comparing the source signals to a quality measure demanded by a user, and performing a signal improvement of the inferior quality signals with respect to data format and errors of the source signals. In referring to its error correction means, the Matsui reference describes “error correction processing means for processing the error correcting code data restored by the restoration means for error correction... wherein the error correcting code data is provided with the ability to correct code image read errors attributable at least to one of the quality of the code image, the performance of the code image reader and the undefinable reading conditions resulting from the manual scanning operation.” *Matsui reference at col. 6, lines 15 - 41.*

Accordingly, the Makiyama and Matsui references (even if combinable – although it is respectfully submitted they are not) do not appear to teach or describe the comparison as claimed in claim 9.

Claims 10, and 12 to 14 (as well as new claim 17) depend from claim 9 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as for claim 9. Claim 15 and its dependent claim 16 (as well as new claim 18) include features analogous to those of claim 9 and are therefore allowable for essentially the same reasons as claim 9.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are allowable; and, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9 to 10 and 12 to 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 9, 10, and 12 to 18, are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the objections and rejections to the Drawings and Claims, have been obviated, and that pending claims 9, 10, and 12 to 18, are

allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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[ANNOTATED SHEET]

[REPLACEMENT SHEET]

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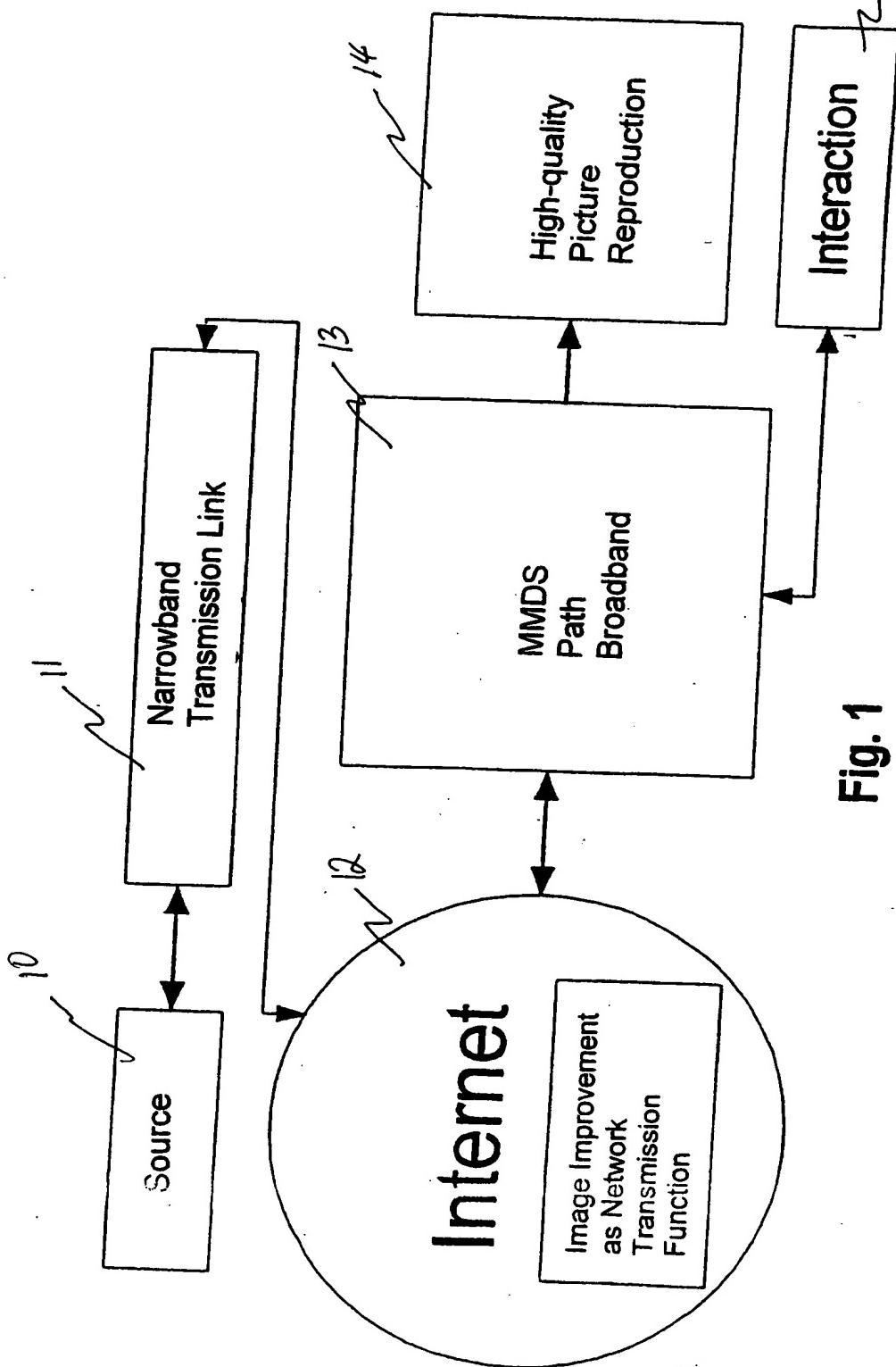
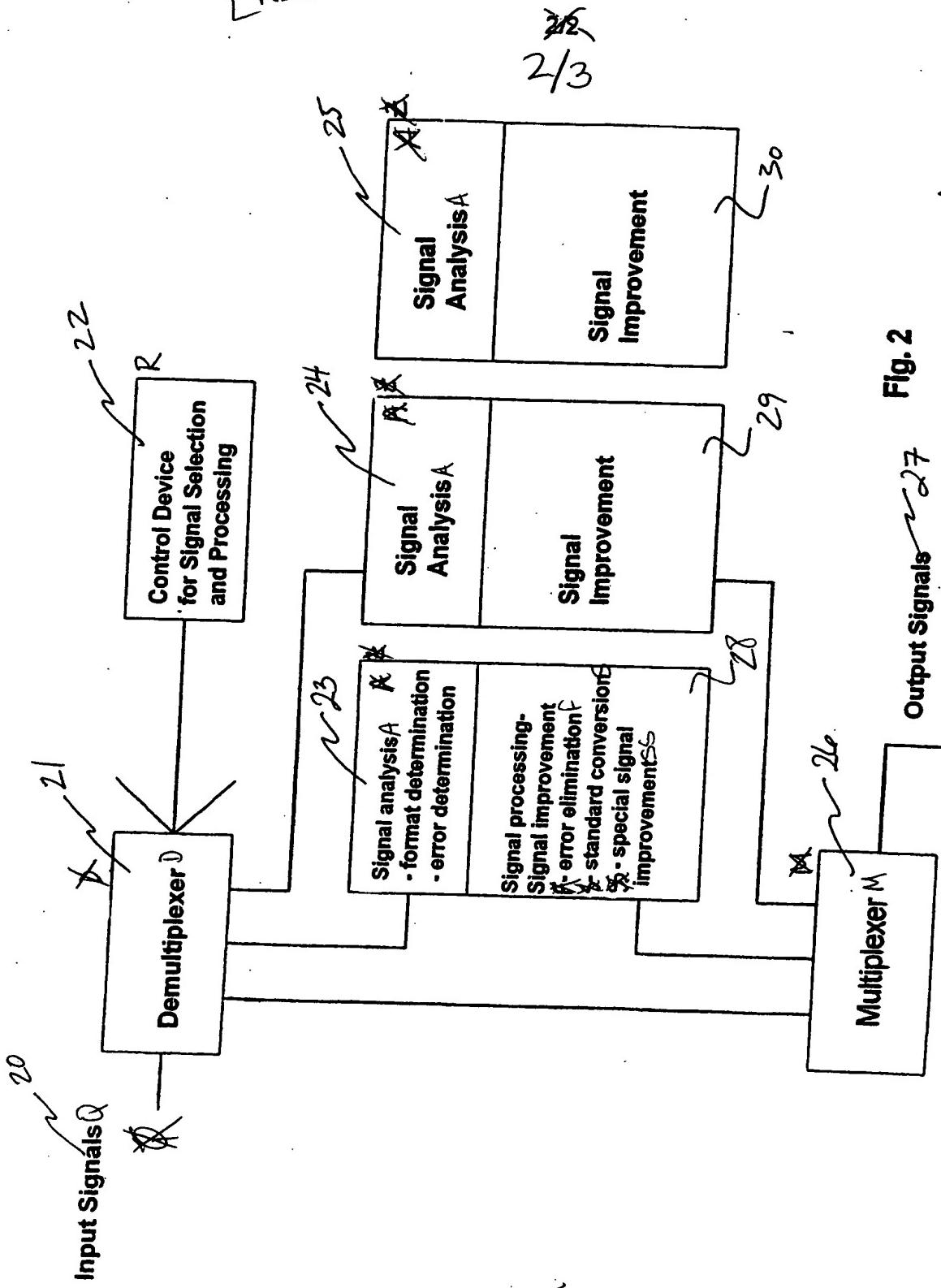


Fig. 1

[REPLACEMENT SHEET]

[ANNOTATED SHEET]

[REPLACEMENT SHEET]



~~REPLACEMENT SHEET~~